ABSOLUTE
WONDER WOMAN
DC
ALL IN
13+ TEEN
1
KELLY
THOMPSON
HAYDEN
SHERMAN
JORDIE
BELLAIRE

ALL IN

ABSOLUTE SUPERMAN

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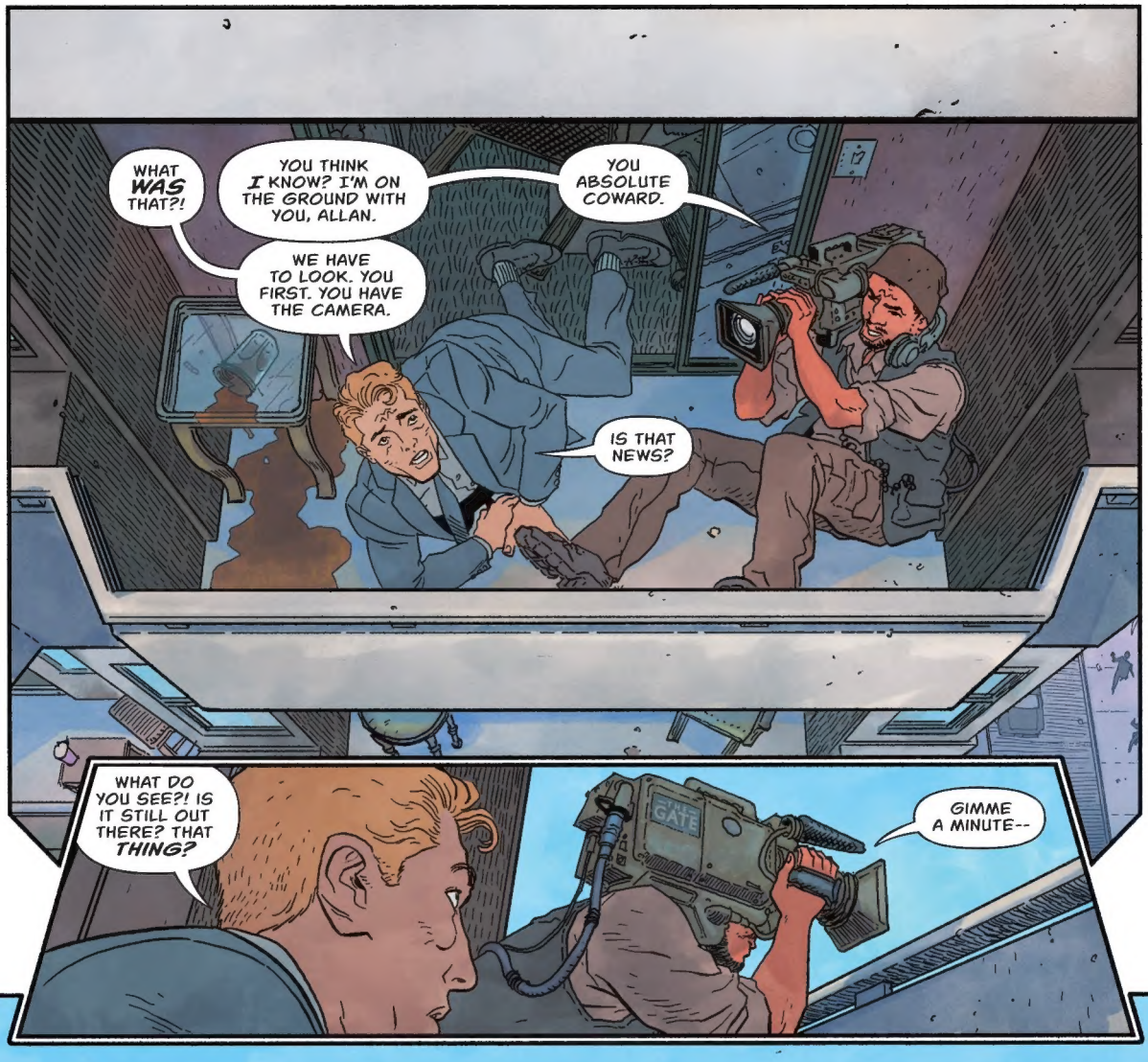
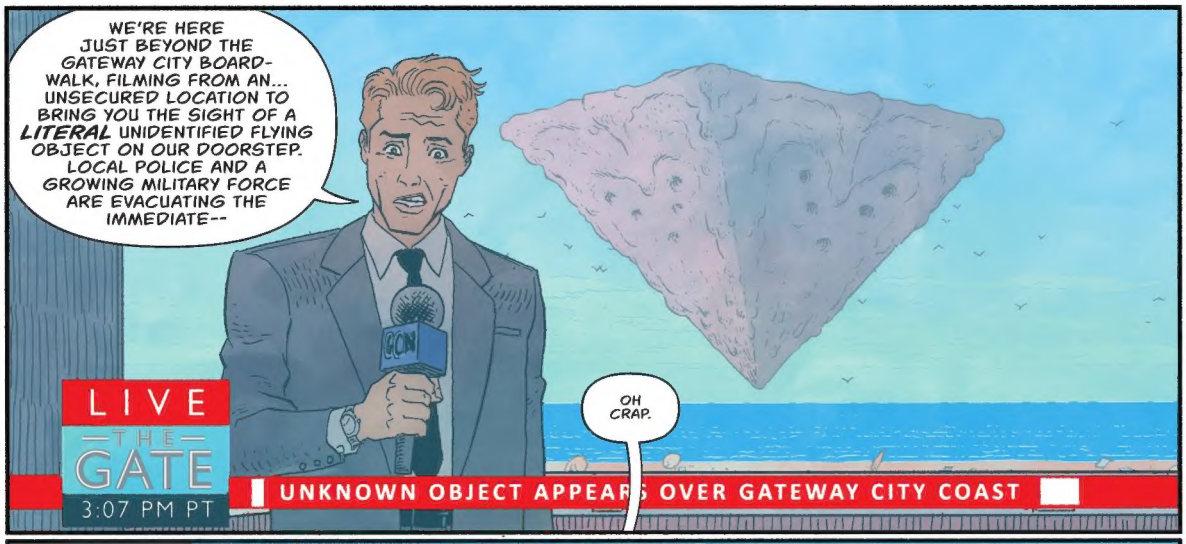
NO FORTRESS.
NO FAMILY.
ABSOLUTE DEFENDER.

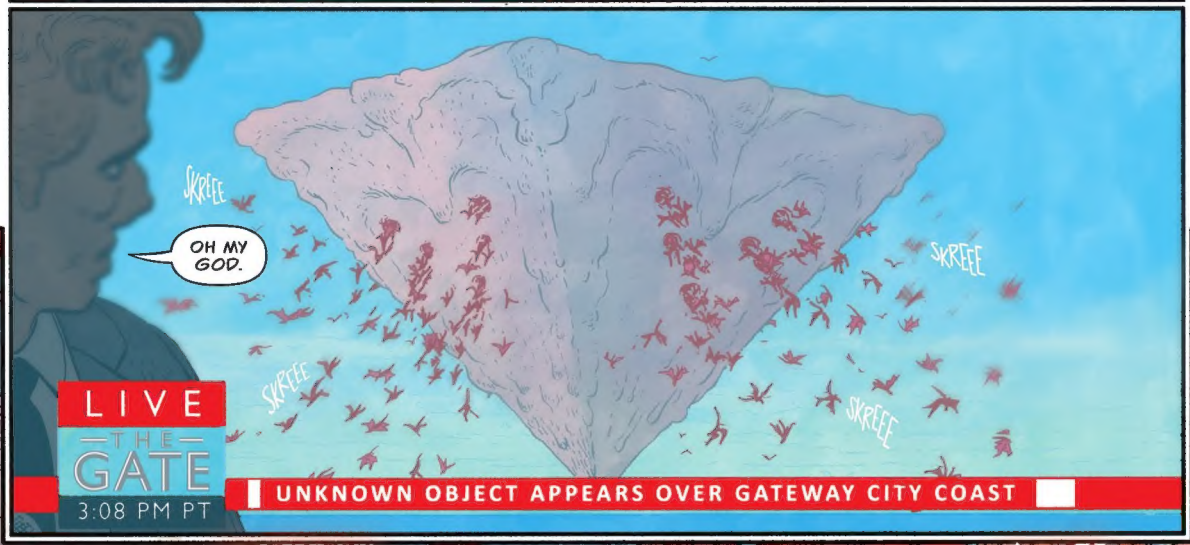
Written by **JASON AARON** • Art and cover by **RAFA SANDOVAL**

The outlaw **Man of Steel** debuts in **NOVEMBER**

GATEWAY CITY
AROUND THE CITY
SIGHTS TO SEE:
MOULTON COVE
GATEWAY CITY
AROUND THE CITY
SIGHTS TO SEE:
SKELETOR


WHAT WAS THAT?!
YOU THINK I KNOW? I'M ON THE GROUND WITH YOU, ALLAN.
YOU ABSOLUTE COWARD.
WE HAVE TO LOOK. YOU FIRST. YOU HAVE THE CAMERA.
IS THAT NEWS?
WHAT DO YOU SEE?! IS IT STILL OUT THERE? THAT THING?
GIMME A MINUTE--
GATEWAY CITY, CALIFORNIA. NOW.
LIVE
THE GATE
3:05 PM PT
UNKNOWN OBJECT APPEARS OVER GATEWAY CITY COAST


WE'RE HERE JUST BEYOND THE GATEWAY CITY BOARDWALK, FILMING FROM AN... UNSECURED LOCATION TO BRING YOU THE SIGHT OF A LITERAL UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT ON OUR DOORSTEP. LOCAL POLICE AND A GROWING MILITARY FORCE ARE EVACUATING THE IMMEDIATE--
GCN
OH CRAP.
LIVE
THE GATE
3:07 PM PT
UNKNOWN OBJECT APPEARS OVER GATEWAY CITY COAST


SKREEE
OH MY GOD.
SKREEE
SKREEE
SKREEE
SKREEE
LIVE
THE GATE
3:08 PM PT
UNKNOWN OBJECT APPEARS OVER GATEWAY CITY COAST

SKREEE
SKREEE
SKREEE
SKREEE
PHONE

SLASHING

LIVE

THE GATE

HE'S DIVING! DON'T LOSE HIM!

...I'M NOT SURE THAT'S A--

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A PRINCESS.
AND THE PRINCESS HAD ALL THE GIFTS ANY PRINCESS COULD HOPE TO HAVE.
BEAUTY.
GRACE.
COMPASSION.
KINDNESS.

WISDOM.
THE ABILITY TO OUTRUN A HELLHOUND AND CONJURE THE DARKEST OF MAGICKS.
BOOM
THINGS EVERY PRINCESS NEEDS...
...WHEN SHE WAS RAISED IN HELL.

ABSOLUTE WONDER WOMAN

THE LAST AMAZON

PART 1 of 5

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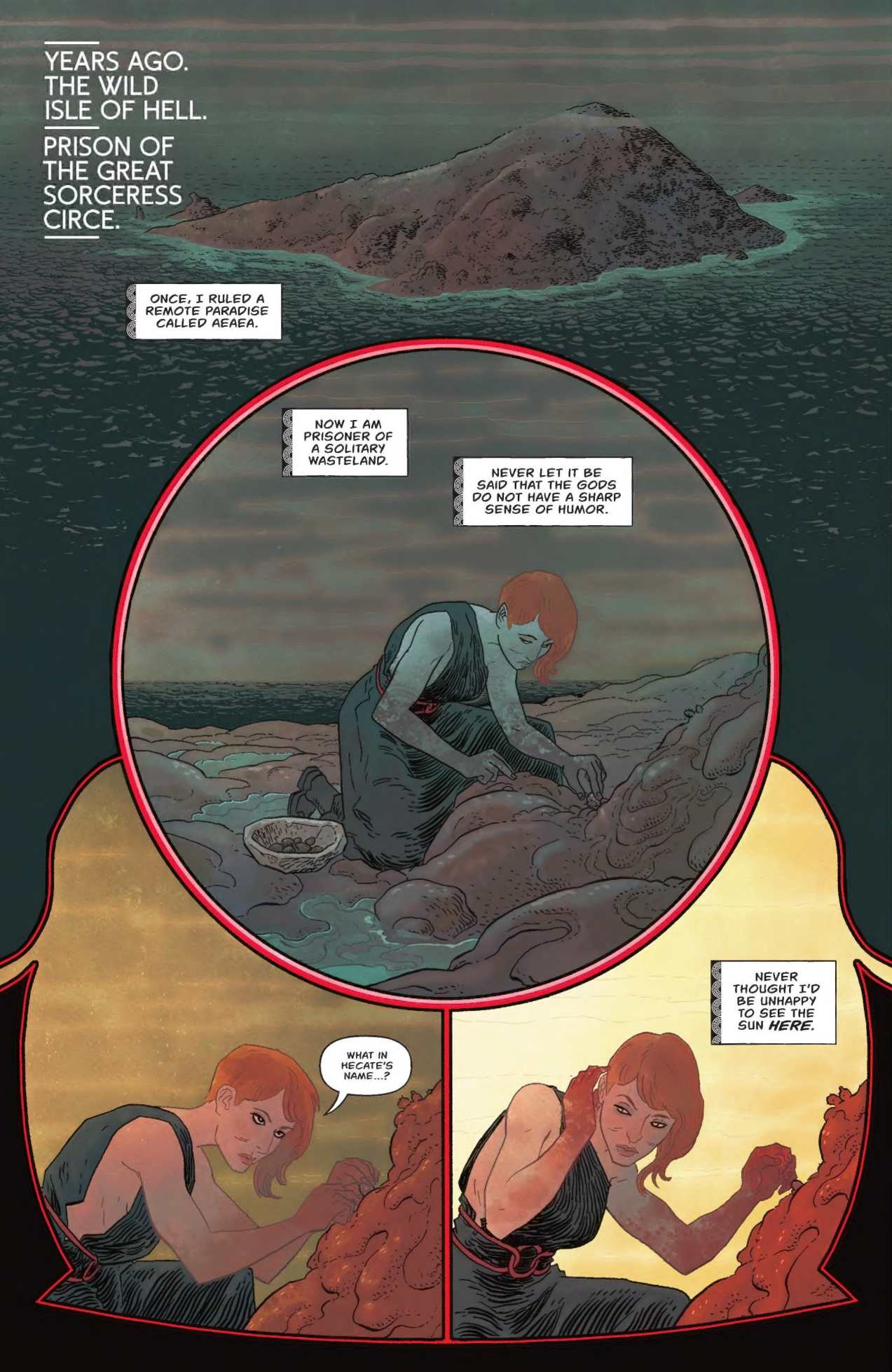
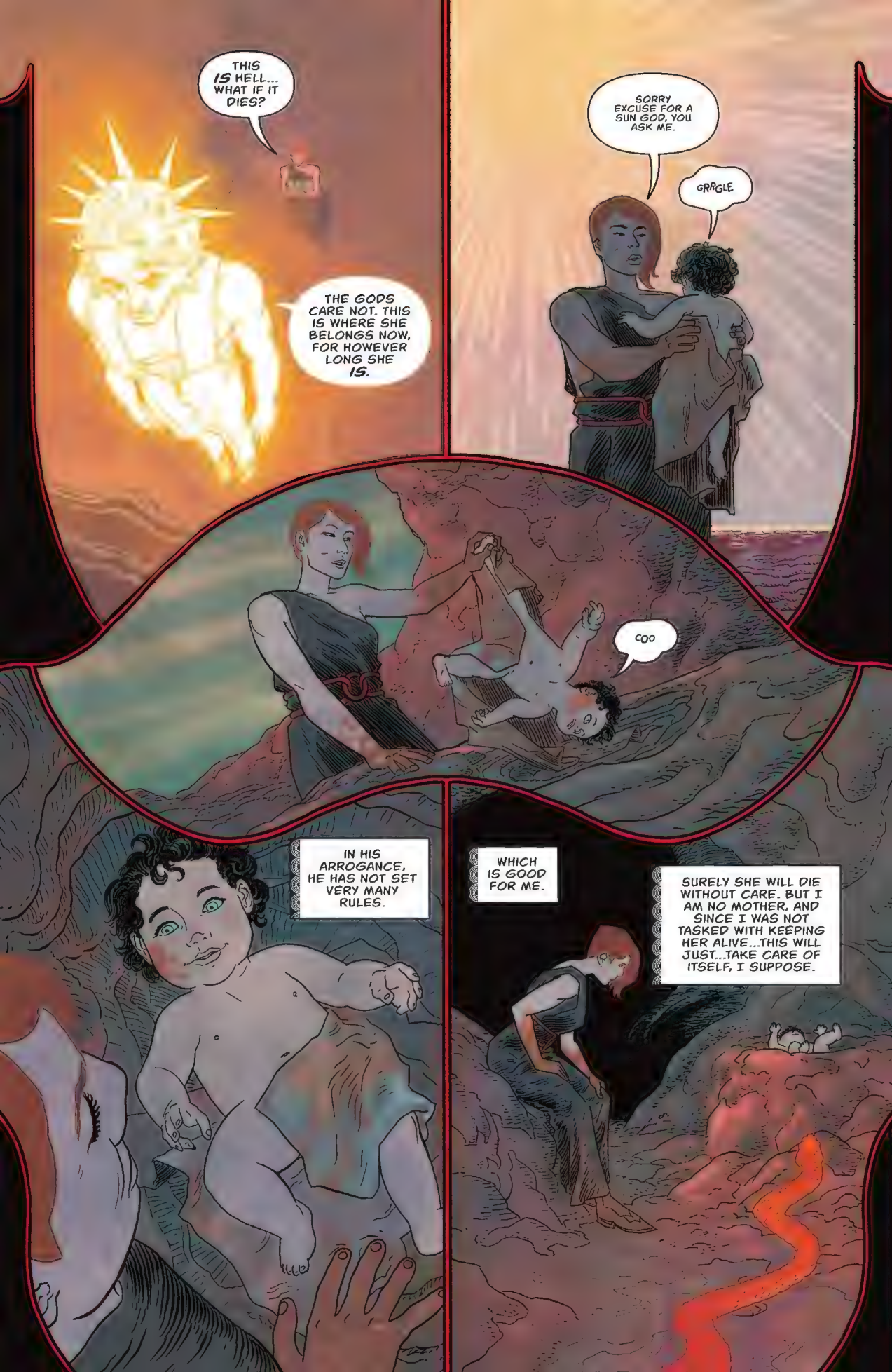

YEARS AGO.
THE WILD ISLE OF HELL.
PRISON OF THE GREAT SORCERESS CIRCE.
ONCE, I RULED A REMOTE PARADISE CALLED AEAEA.
NOW I AM PRISONER OF A SOLITARY WASTELAND.
NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT THE GODS DO NOT HAVE A SHARP SENSE OF HUMOR.
WHAT IN HECATE'S NAME...?
NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE UNHAPPY TO SEE THE SUN *HERE*.

COME FORWARD, WITCH.
APOLLO.
YOU MAY KNEEL.
I'M FINE.
DEFIANT EVEN IN HELL, I SEE.
I LEAN INTO MY STRENGTHS.
MMM. PERHAPS IT IS WHAT GOT YOU HERE.
PERHAPS.
THIS IS YOURS NOW.
MINE?
THIS IS A BABY.
WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT A BABY TO HELL?

THIS BABY IS DIANA, PRINCESS OF THEMYSCIRA.
SHE IS THE LAST OF THE AMAZONS, AND SHE HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM THEM BY MY FATHER, ZEUS, AS PUNISHMENT FOR THEIR CRIMES AGAINST THE GODS.
SOME OF THAT SEEMS LIKE A RADICAL INTERPRETATION OF THE TEXT.
HER HOME IS NOW HELL. YOU ARE HER WARDEN.
I--
SHE MAY NEVER AGAIN BE REUNITED WITH HER AMAZON SISTERS-- AND THEY WILL BE IMPRISONED FOR ETERNITY WHEN THEIR SERVICE TO MY FATHER ENDS.
AND YOU MAY NEVER SAY THE WORD AMAZON AGAIN.
HE'S TRYING TO HIDE IT, BUT HE'S AFRAID OF HER. WHY?
FROM HERE FORTH THE WORD AMAZON IS BANNED.
SO I DECREE.
TRY IT FOR ME, CIRCE. TRY TO SAY THE WORD. I WANT TO SEE.
...


THIS IS HELL... WHAT IF IT DIES?
THE GODS CARE NOT. THIS IS WHERE SHE BELONGS NOW, FOR HOWEVER LONG SHE IS.
SORRY EXCUSE FOR A SUN GOD, YOU ASK ME.
GRRGLE
COO
IN HIS ARROGANCE, HE HAS NOT SET VERY MANY RULES.
WHICH IS GOOD FOR ME.
SURELY SHE WILL DIE WITHOUT CARE. BUT I AM NO MOTHER, AND SINCE I WAS NOT TASKED WITH KEEPING HER ALIVE...THIS WILL JUST...TAKE CARE OF ITSELF, I SUPPOSE.

OH. SO THIS WILL VERY MUCH TAKE CARE OF ITSELF. PERHAPS THE GODS ARE NOT SO WILLING TO LEAVE THINGS TO CHANCE.
CAN'T SAY I CARE FOR THAT MUCH.
COO COO
WILL THE GODS SEND ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER TO KILL THE CHILD UNTIL IT'S DONE?
IF THEY DO, SHE IS DOOMED WHETHER I TAKE AN INTEREST OR NOT.
GRRGGLE
COO
?!
YEET
WELL, WELL, WELL.

GAH.
HEE HEE.
FWOOM
BAAAAA.
CRACKLE HSSS
YOINK
NONO.
SMEK
SHE'S GOING TO LEARN THE HARD WAY WITH THAT ONE. HE'LL SINGE OFF ALL HER HAIR NEXT TIME.

PLENTY OF THINGS TRIED TO KILL HER... ***US***. BUT THERE WAS NO OVERWHELMING FORCE OF CREATURES BENT ON HER DESTRUCTION, AS I'D FEARED.

AND SHE HAD A QUALITY THAT SOFTENED EVEN THE MOST TREACHEROUS BEASTS.

AND I DON'T JUST MEAN ALL THE LITTLE CREATURES AND DEMONS AND LOST SOULS THAT DRIFTED TO HER.

GRRRR ARRRR!

HOW YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH A CHILD IS BY RAISING IT.

THIS BOY IS HURTING THIS TREE. I DON'T LIKE IT.

THAT'S PART OF THE LESSON, DIANA.

WHY DOESN'T THE TREE UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING?

MAYBE IT DOES, AND ACCEPTS IT.

BUT IT'S ALL DEAD, MOM.

IT JUST ***LOOKS*** DEAD, DARLING. WE CAN GET IT BACK. IT JUST NEEDS LOVE.

AND MAGIC.

WELL, YES. ***EVERYTHING*** NEEDS MAGIC.

ZZZZZZ

ZZZZ

ZZZZZ

ZZZZ

ZZZZ

MOTHER. THERE'S A WORD.

DO YOU ***KNOW*** THIS WORD?

...YES?

WHAT IS IT? YOU HAVEN'T SAID.

I... I'M NOT SURE IT'S REAL.

IT'S REAL IF YOU SAY IT.

PERHAPS.

HNNNG. BE REASONABLE! YOU DON'T HAVE TO DIE TODAY!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MOTHER?

YES.

WHERE DID IT COME FROM? THEY RARELY APPEAR ON THE ISLAND THIS TIME OF YEAR...

I DON'T KNOW.

RAISING A CHILD IS HOW YOU FALL IN LOVE.

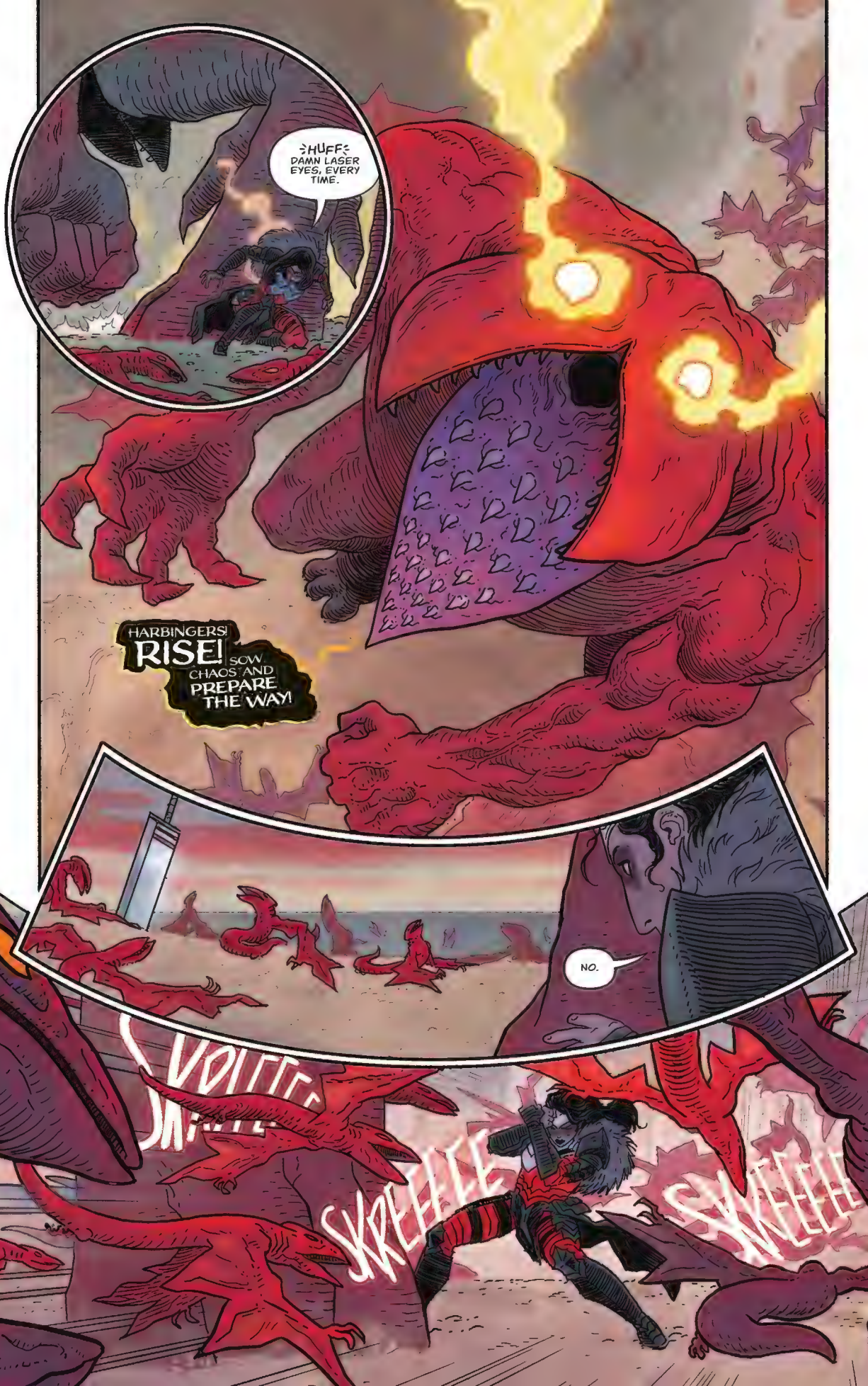
BUT LETTING THEM GO IS HOW YOU *PROVE* YOUR LOVE.

GATEWAY CITY. NOW.
PEGASUS. THE PERIMETER.
SNORT
ARE YOU IN CHARGE HERE, SOLDIER?
UM.
THAT IS A NO. WHERE IS YOUR SUPERIOR?
THANK YOU.
YOU SHOULD EVACUATE ALL CIVILIANS WITHIN A MILE.
BUT I THOUGHT--
THEY ARE NOT DEAD, THEY ARE ONLY STUNNED. AND THEY'RE NOT WHAT'S COMING. THEY ARE BUT HARBINGERS FOR WHAT IS TO COME.
...
SHHHLLKK

WE ARE OUT OF TIME.
EVACUATE YOUR CIVILIANS. AND BRING YOUR ARMY.
BUT--
RUN.
YOU ARE NOT WELCOME, HARBINGER PRIME. THIS WORLD WILL DEFEND ITSELF.
I STAND BEFORE YOU WITH THE MYTHICAL ATHENA BLADE, FORGED BY HEPHAESTUS HIMSELF. IT IS MORE THAN CAPABLE OF SENDING YOU TO YOUR MAKER.
GO BACK TO WHEREVER YOU CAME FROM AND TELL WHATEVER YOU HERALD THAT YOU WERE MISTAKEN.
THIS WORLD IS PROTECTED.

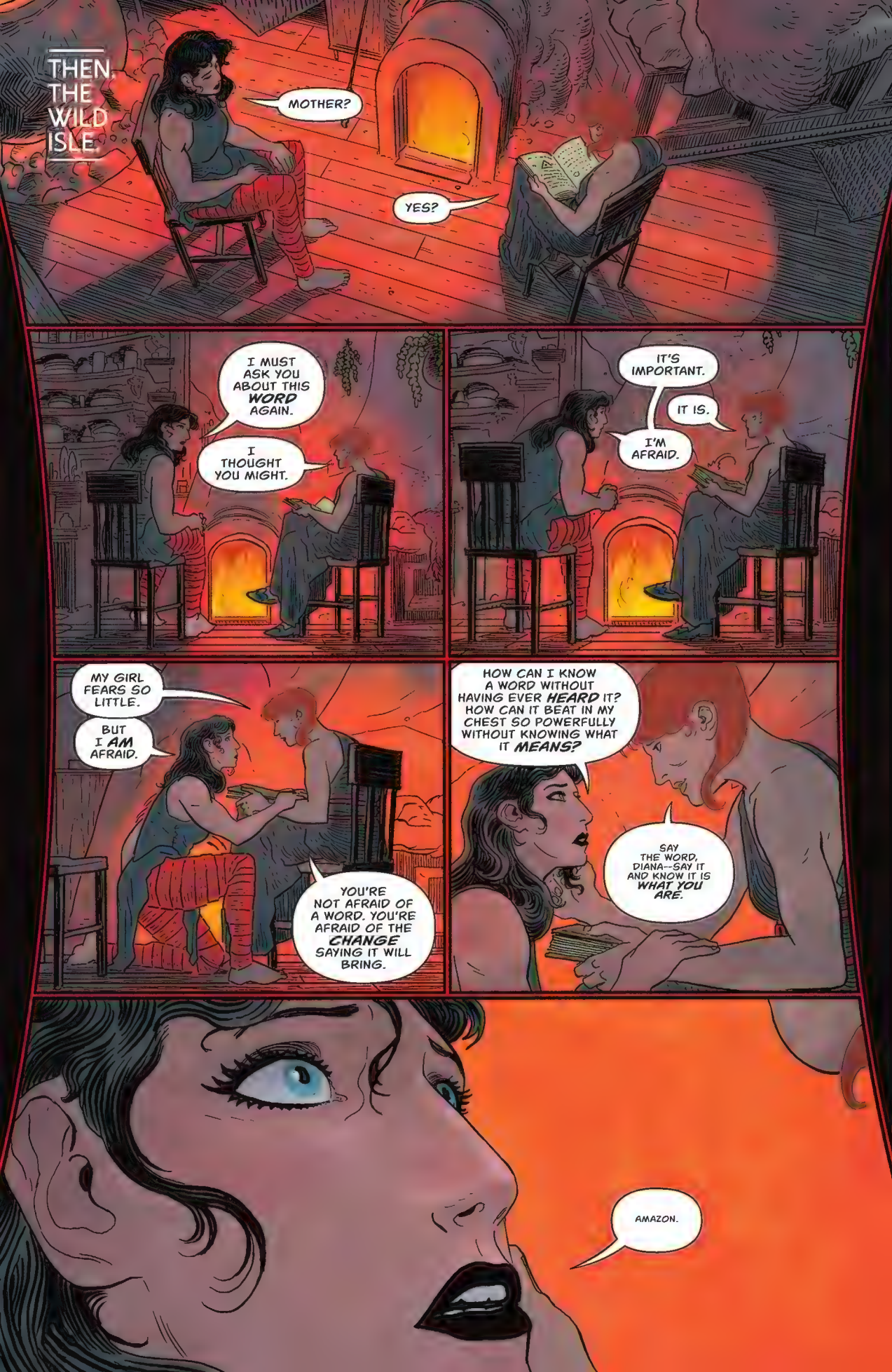
BUT IT IS NOT.
HNNG.
HOLD. YOU CAN DO IT. JUST HOLD.
PEGASUS!

FWOOSH
TEARDROP
ZZZZZKKK
AHHHHH!


:HUFF: DAMN LASER EYES, EVERY TIME.
HARBINGERS! RISE! SOW CHAOS AND PREPARE THE WAY!
NO.
SKREEEE
SKREEEE

AGAIN YOU STAND? WE ARE NOT AMUSED!
FLIKKKKT
CLANG
HRRK!
FLLLKKT
WE WARNED YOU.

EZZZNK!
PFF
PFF
PFF
PFF
WHOMP


THEN, THE WILD ISLE.
MOTHER?
YES?
I MUST ASK YOU ABOUT THIS WORD AGAIN.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT.
IT'S IMPORTANT.
IT IS.
I'M AFRAID.
MY GIRL FEARS SO LITTLE.
BUT I AM AFRAID.
YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF A WORD. YOU'RE AFRAID OF THE CHANGE SAYING IT WILL BRING.
HOW CAN I KNOW A WORD WITHOUT HAVING EVER HEARD IT? HOW CAN IT BEAT IN MY CHEST SO POWERFULLY WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT IT MEANS?
SAY THE WORD, DIANA--SAY IT AND KNOW IT IS WHAT YOU ARE.
AMAZON.

"AMAZON."

WHAT DOES IT MEAN, MOTHER? *AMAZON.*

IT IS SIMPLY WHAT YOU ARE, DIANA.

YOU ARE AN [redacted]

AHHHH!

NOOO!

KRAAAAK!

WHAT WAS *THAT?!*

WHEN APOLLO FIRST BROUGHT YOU TO ME, HE BANNED ME FROM EVER AGAIN SAYING THAT WORD.

WHY? WHY WOULD THEY *DO* THAT?

WHY *INDEED,* MY DARLING GIRL.

THEY...THEY DON'T WANT ME TO KNOW I'M AN AMAZON. THEY TOOK ME FROM THEM, AND TRIED TO STOP ME FROM KNOWING WHAT I WAS.

WHY?

BECAUSE THE [redacted] HAD A JOB TO DO. THEY PROTECTED THE WORLD ABOVE FROM THE OLDEST OF MONSTERS, WHICH WANT ONLY TO FEAST ON IT. WITHOUT THE [redacted] THE WORLD ABOVE NEVER MAKES IT THIS FAR. WITHOUT THEM, MAYBE THIS IS THE END.

OR PERHAPS YOU WILL SAY YOUR NAME AGAIN--AND BECOME WHAT YOU WERE ALWAYS MEANT TO BE?

AMAZON. I'M AN AMAZON.

AGAIN.

AMAZON.

AGAIN!

AMAZON.

AMAZON.

AWAY, WARRIOR. YOU ARE BEATEN.
LEAVE US, AS WE MUST PREPARE THE WAY. THIS WORLD IS OURS NOW.
NO.
WE WILL CONTINUE TO HURT YOU IF YOU INSIST.
I INSIST.
HOW YOU PROVE YOUR LOVE IS BY SETTING YOUR CHILD FREE...
...AND ARMING HER TO THE TEETH WITH THE GREATEST WEAPONS IMAGINABLE.
AND WATCHING HER BECOME EVERYTHING SHE WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BECOME.
WATCHING HER CHANGE THE WORLD.
FOR I AM DIANA OF THEMYSCIRA, LAST OF THE AMAZONS, DAUGHTER OF CIRCE, PRINCESS OF HELL, WITCH OF THE WILD ISLE.
AND YOU WILL NOT HAVE THIS WORLD WHILE I STILL DRAW BREATH!
NEXT: THE TETRACIDE

John Cassaday

1971-2024

John Cassaday was one of my favorite creators. He was an incredible artist who drew beautifully naturalistic figures when house styles chased hyperrealism trends. A true maverick, John was also a nuanced storyteller who relied on sharp compositions and precise framing, which made his imagery cinematic and powerful. The sum total was just pure comics.

John was truly the kindest and most generous spirit. An integral part of WildStorm's early history and success, he spent a lot of time with us in San Diego. John's passing leaves me stunned and heartbroken.

Rest in peace, buddy.
—**Jim Lee**, DC Comics Publisher & CCO

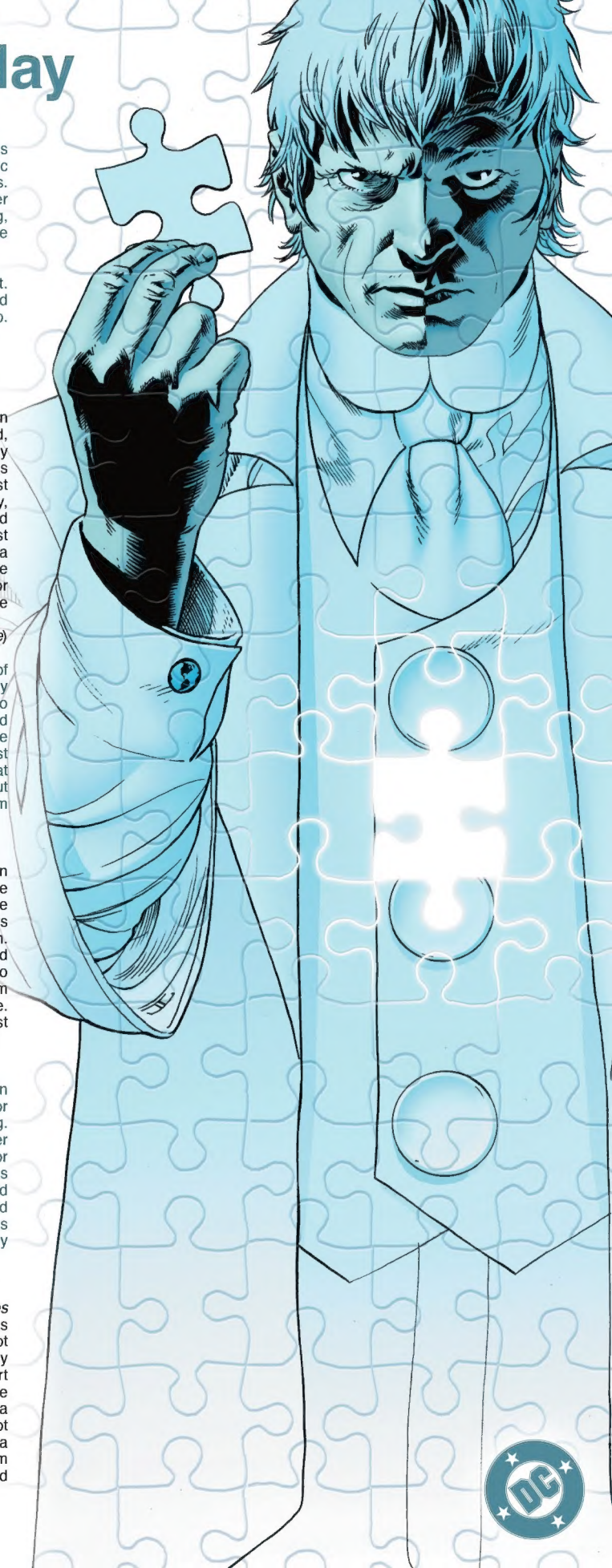
My dear friend John Cassaday was not just an amazing artist but an amazing person—warm, kind, funny, charming, and generous. I knew him for nearly half my life, and ours was one of my most precious and valued friendships. He was easily one of the best comics illustrators and storytellers of the 21st century, a reference point and inspiration to the dozens and dozens of artists whose work he influenced. Most people, after they pass, are remembered only by a small group of friends and loved ones. John will be talked about and remembered by an entire industry for ages, and rightfully so. Rest in peace, Johnny. Love you.
—**Mark Waid** (*Justice League Unlimited, Kingdom Come*)

Working with John Cassaday on *Planetary* was one of the greatest periods of my comics career, and certainly informed how I'd approach comics in the years to come. *Planetary* was a showcase of the potential and possibility of comics, and there could not be a more thrilling book to work on, nor a more visionary artist than John. In those years we forged a friendship that would last for a lifetime. John was a brilliant artist, but as great as he was, John was an even better friend. I'm gonna miss him forever.
—**John Layman** (*Planetary, Titans*)

I first met John in the '90s and was instantly blown away by his amazing artwork. He had a presence about him—a smile that lit up the room and an ease and softness to his voice and mannerisms that always made everyone around him want more of his attention. He loved comics, loved the art form, and encouraged and celebrated everyone's work around him. I was so happy to give him such a hearty hug when I saw him last, but little did I ever dream it would be the last time. The world lost a great artist, and those in his circle lost a loyal, loving, and dear friend.
—**Jimmy Palmiotti** (*Harley Quinn, Jonah Hex*)

John was a titan. That tall, rangy, lantern-jawed Texan with the easy smile and the bone-dry sense of humor had universes inside him. He could do anything. He challenged himself as an artist and storyteller constantly, never standing still, always reaching for new peaks and always finding them. His kindness was eternal. My life would have been a very different and lesser thing if not for John Cassaday. The world and our medium are thinner and meaner places for his passing. These words are not enough. Good night, my good friend.
—**Warren Ellis** (*Planetary*)

John Cassaday started working on *Desperadoes* at WildStorm just as this newly minted colorist was learning the ropes in the coloring department. I got the chance to join John on *Planetary*, and history was made for both of us. John played no small part in making me the colorist I am today, by pushing me to try new techniques and effects while teaching me a great deal about the power of color in storytelling. Not only that, but John was sweet and down-to-earth, a gentleman and a dear friend from day one. John, I am a better artist and person for having known you and shared in your vision.
—**Laura Martin** (*Planetary*)

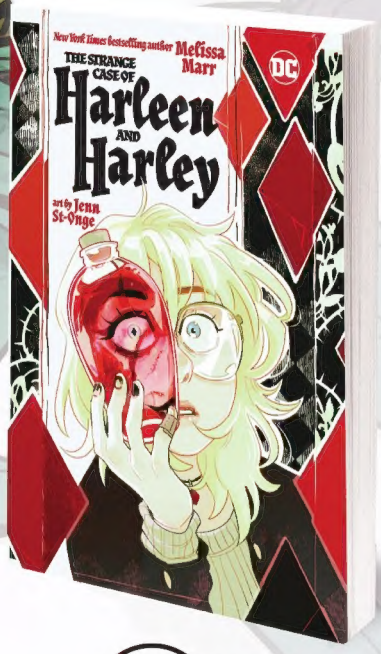


Harleen Quinzel is many things...
but she is nothing like Harley Quinn!

THE STRANGE CASE OF Harleen AND Harley

Written by
New York Times
bestseller
Melissa Marr

Illustrated by
Jenn St-Onge



DC

A new graphic novel for young adults

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OCTOBER

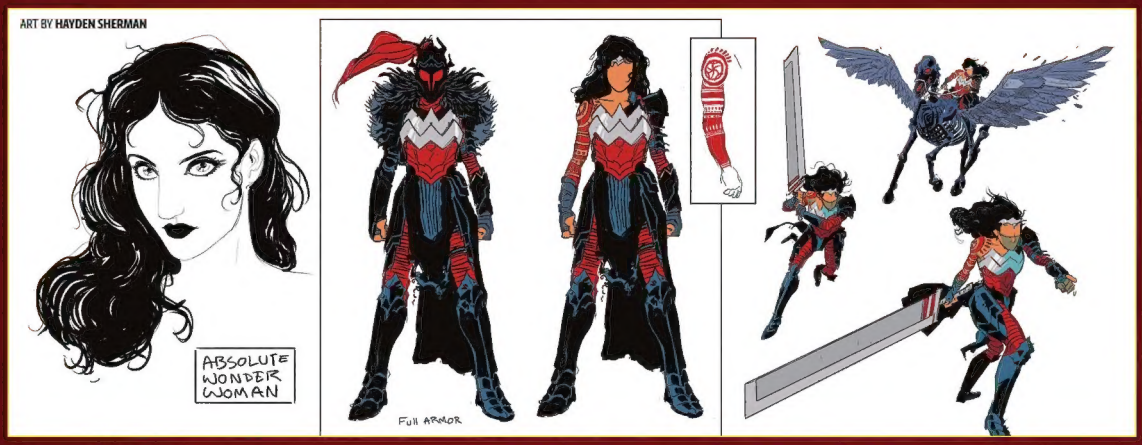
DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

ALL IN

ABSOLUTE WONDER WOMAN

Following the birth of the Absolute Universe in *DC All In Special* #1, DC's Absolute line continues with *Absolute Wonder Woman* from writer Kelly Thompson and artist Hayden Sherman, featuring an exhilarating new take on the iconic hero.

To prepare for *Absolute Wonder Woman*, here's insight directly from Thompson herself, in the form of her mission statement for the upcoming series.



Humankind's age of superheroes has officially begun, and Diana, Princess of Hell, is its first gift. She is perhaps not quite the gift the world had in mind, but she will more than do.

Once upon a time there was a princess blessed with all the gifts a princess could want—beauty, grace, compassion, wisdom, and of course the ability to outrun a hellhound, swing an axe with the strength of Ares, and suplex with more style than Hercules.

Because she was raised in Hell—and when you are living in Hell, all these gifts come in quite handy.

But she was not born in Hell; she was born in paradise. She lived, loved perhaps more than any child in all the world, on the island of Themyscira, sole child of the immortal Amazons. She had been a gift to them from the goddesses for their good works (1,000 years of protecting the world of men, among other things), and barely a year later Diana was taken from the Amazons as punishment for their "bad" works.

But even the gods could not kill a child this special, this loved, this blessed, with ease...

DON'T MISS ***ABSOLUTE WONDER WOMAN #1***, ON SALE IN OCTOBER!

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